

1993

JANUARY 23 STATE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Becky Akers, Mark Axinn, Gail Bova, Joe Brennan, Paula, Dottie Lou Brokaw, Lisa Clark, Bob Goodman, Pam Haberkorn, Dave Harnett, Gary Johnson, Vicki Kirkland, James LaBarre, Vince O'Neill, Keith Sauter, Blay Tarnoff, Lou Vogel, Rick Wolff, Peter Zeisner

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. Minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of January 23, there was only \$605 in the treasury. Pam Haberkorn reported that the state still has debts of \$692.47, \$466 of which it owes to Chase Communications for printing Free New York, and \$138, which it owes to the New York City chapter. However, the Westchester chapter owes the state \$439.35. Member at Large Rick Wolff tried to revive that chapter but had no luck. He is checking with the former chair of Westchester and Member at Large Vicki Kirkland will talk to Clay Conrad for further information regarding this debt.

Pam also noted that, at one time, the state had set aside \$7,000 in a trust fund. To date, it has all been spent. However, with the checks Pam received at the meeting, she estimates that the state committee will be \$400 in the black.

As of February 1, we are switching our accounts from Chase Manhattan to Citibank. Vicki Kirkland will handle deposits of membership dues and will forward the membership information to Pam and past chair Gary Johnson. Gary said he will provide Pam with an updated membership list.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Gary Johnson stated that New York State has 493 paid-up National members and 547 lapsed National members. There are 325 state members, of which 207 still owe dues. Our computerized mailing list now contains 5,000 names, more than double that of last year's list (less than 2,000 names). Membership director Becky Akers has been mailing 100 applications out at a time. Membership targets are people who are national, but not state members, and contributors to the Party. Gary says there are 800 active contributors on our lists. The board commended Gary and Becky on their work to boost membership.

Nassau County Chair Keith Sauter asked Gary for the names of non-members in Nassau County so he can notify them about the chapter's convention in April. Any chapter who needs a list of targeted people from their area should send a note to Gary at 348 E. 15th St., Apt. 8, NYC 10003.

Rick Wolff discussed his "50K Run" idea to raise money for the gubernatorial race in 1994. It is critical to get 50,000 votes in that race so the party can achieve ballot status. (NOTE: Westchester State Representative Norma Segal received a whopping 108,530 votes in her Senate race.) Concerns were raised about the state of our treasury. The board passed a motion 10-4 authorizing Rick to get seed money from the state of up to \$100 if and when available, with the stipulation that it be repaid to New York State. Rick said that any profits from his idea would go to the 1994 Governor's War Chest ONLY.

NEXT STATE CONVENTION: Vice Chair Dottie Lou Brokaw looked at the cost of the Frost Valley YMCA camp in Oliveria, Ulster County. This camp in the Catskills is approximately 2 1/4 hours from New York City and 2 hours from Albany. Five meals and a two-night stay with all camp activities would cost \$140 per person; the cheapest rate for two nights and five meals was \$77 per person. However, because of the expense and limited availability of the camp, the board voted to return to the White Plains Hotel. The convention will be held Saturday, May 22 and the guest speaker will be Dr. Mary Ruwart.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: Chair Lou Vogel mentioned two controversial items to be discussed at this year's national convention at Salt Lake City Sept. 2-5. They are: a proposal to scrap the non-initiation pledge (Steve Alexander has already resigned as a result of that proposal), and a proposal that the Party platform be rewritten every four years.

Dottie Lou made a motion that at the state convention, the candidates for delegate slots at the national convention give us their views on these two issues. The motion carried unanimously.

Gary suggested that, as part of our state convention, we hold one debate on the oath proposal and another on the platform proposal, with three or four people on each team. Vicki thought we should invite NATCOM representative Clay Conrad to discuss the proposals.

NEW BUSINESS: New York City Representative Mark Axinn updated the board on a lawsuit of interest to Libertarians. The suit, in Federal District Court in Manhattan, is a New Alliance Party challenge to its position on the ballot. Mark initially argued before Judge Ward that a fair system should be applied to all parties but it would be a economic hardship if changed during this year's ballot. Now, Judge Ward is interested in resolving this suit by the 1994 elections. With the board's approval, Mark said he would submit appropriate papers supporting the plaintiff's complaint and recommending that 1) all parties be treated the same OR 2) that the minor parties be listed in descending order (we would be guaranteed Line G). The board agreed and applauded Mark for his pro bono work. Oral arguments are April 16; Mark invited interested members to attend.

Another lawsuit: Vice Chair Joseph Brennan was unable to reach Tom Stevens of the New York Young Republican Party. Joe was trying to find out the status of the suit the New York State Committee planned to prepare against the 50,000 signature threshold for governor ruling.

Free New York Editor Bob Goodman said that the cost of printing a four-page newsletter is \$470. He suggested that we produce it cheaply by photocopying it so we can afford to get it out regularly. Many board members opposed producing it cheaper, citing quality and the organization's image. Bob explained that he would like to include in the next issue the convention date, speaker(s) and a coupon to fill out with the costs involved, which involves a lot of space. The board passed a motion that appropriates \$450 for one Free New York issue, with additional pages if it can be done without a loss of quality.

Nassau County Representative Vince O'Neill mentioned that Nassau and Suffolk County party representatives attended a statewide Wastewatch meeting sponsored by Tax-Pac. Herb London, who is running for governor in 1994 on the Conservative Party ticket, was the luncheon speaker.

Dottie Lou was a guest on the Jackie Mason show in December. Unfortunately, her comments, as well as those of others, on immigration, were cut out. She spoke at a press conference Feb. 4 in Courtland, New York on drug policy reform.

Bob Goodman announced that the Libertarian Book Club meets the third Thursday of every month from 6-8 p.m. at 369 Eighth Avenue (ground floor) in Manhattan.

The next meeting of the State Committee will be Saturday, March 20 at 1 p.m. in the offices of Chase Communications, 25-35 Beechwood Avenue, Mt. Vernon, (914) 699-2020.

• The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.